

Report: Lee Harvey Oswald Not an FBI Employee

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Description

One of the conspiracy theories involving the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is a report investigated by the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald was on the FBI payroll. In 1978, the FBI releases information from its files about the rumor and NBC News is able to track down the source of it: Houston newspaper reporter Lonnie Hudkins who says he and a friend made up the story to see if their phone was tapped, but never intended for it to be printed.

Keywords

President, John F. Kennedy, JFK, Assassination, FBI, Investigation, Lee Harvey Oswald, Assassin, Case, Warren Commission, J. Edgar Hoover, Earl Warren, Story, Lonnie Hudkins, Rumor, Conspiracy, Theory, Evidence, Payroll, Employee

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Transcript

Report -- Lee Harvey Oswald Not an FBI Employee

FLOYD KALBER, anchor:

Well the FBI has made public more material from its files on the assassination of President Kennedy. None of it seems to cast doubt, however, on the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, but the material does show how meticulous the FBI was in checking out everything even remotely connected with the case. For example, after the Warren Commission report came out, a little girl wrote to J. Edgar Hoover, then the director, saying, "In our English class we are using the Warren Commission report. I don't have much money. So, since you don't like yours, can I have it?" Well, the FBI replied that it didn't have a spare copy and a notation on the correspondence says that the little girl, quote, "Is not identifiable in the Bureau files." More on the FBI material now from Carl Stern.

CARL STERN reporting:

Hoover was frequently angry at Commission Chairmen Warren for what Hoover called "carping criticism of the FBI's work," at conspiracy advocates Jim Garrison of New Orleans whom Hoover called a "scheister," and comedian Dick Gregory whom Hoover called "obviously insane." The report says Oswald once wanted to shoot Richard Nixon. But information obtained by NBC News adds a curious if not characteristic chapter to the story concerning the Warren Commission's preoccupation with reports that Oswald had really been an FBI employee. Even had a payroll number, S172, or 179.

NBC News tracked down a newspaper reporter who acknowledges he and a friend made up the story on the telephone to try to catch eavesdroppers. Lonnie Hudkins says they didn't intend that anyone print it.

LONNIE HUDKINS: Uh, the conversation went like-- well, it's been so many years, but it was like, uh-- this was pre-planned mind you. Uh, "Hey Lonnie, what'd you say Oswald's FBI payroll number was?" And I said, "Well, I thought it was S172." And the other guy said, "No, I thought it was S179." And then I

said, “No, it was S172.” And we agreed on that and hung up. That was it. We didn’t do anything with that story. It was a fabrication.

STERN: But someone did overhear it and print it. And Hudkins says he and his friends kept their mouths shut. The story has circulated ever since and plagued the Warren Commission. The fact that it wasn’t, that Oswald was an FBI employee, payroll number S172 or 179. Carl Stern, NBC News, Washington.